

Hongkong, January 11, 1866.

THE CHINA MAIL.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 13th DECEMBER, 1866

BIRTHS.

At Foochow, on the 4th December, the wife of the Rev. R. J. W. Jones, of a son.
At Hongkong, on Sunday, the 9th December, the wife of JAMES J. DENAVAY, Deputy Purveyor to H. B. M. S. Forces, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

Suddenly on the morning of the 8th Inst. ELIZA MARIA, the wife of W. K. DENAVAY, Hongkong, on the 6th December, Grace Norris, 2nd Steward, P. & O. Steam Ship *Eliza*, aged 36 years, (of Consumption).
At the General Hospital, Hongkong, on the 11th December, GEORGE MASTERS, Private 2nd Bat. 20th Regiment, aged 22 years.
On the 30th November, SARAH, Wife of Wm. Howard, of H.M. Naval Yard, aged 48 years.
On Board H.M.S. *Meridon*, on the 11th December, SARAH YABUT, Sailmaker's Mate, H.M.S. *Heper*, aged 58 years.
On Board the U.S. Ship *Harford*, Hongkong, on the 12th December, HERBERT WILLIAMS, Chief Boatwain's Mate.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

JAPAN.

THE most important news to hand from Japan is that of the great fire at Yokohama. We must refer our readers to other portions of our columns for details but briefly the account received is as follows:—

On the 26th November, 1866, nearly two-thirds of the native town, and one-sixth of the foreign settlement at Yokohama were consumed by fire. At a little before nine in the morning, the fire bell rung its alarm, and all rushed to the scene, which was found to be the street leading from Bentendori to Yoshiwara. In a few minutes, flames were seen issuing in various quarters simultaneously. The flames worked up against the wind from the locality in which the fire originated, and in half an hour the whole of Yoshiwara was destroyed. With the exception of one or two fire proof godowns and the temple at the end, not a single stick was standing to mark the boundaries of dwellings. The fire spread towards and in the foreign settlement. The new American Consulate was soon level with the ground, and remnants flew around, then No. 1, the private residence of Messrs Jardine, Matheson and Co. caught. In a few seconds it reached the whole settlement and soon the private residence of Walsh, Hall & Co. was on fire. Simultaneously with this the whole range of old consular buildings, French, Prussian, American, and English, in which latter several gentlemen of the English legation and consulate were residing, were swept off like so much tinder. The wind increased almost to a typhoon, the sparks communicated to the old native custom house, and in a short time, it was a thing of the past. Next the new bonded warehouse was destroyed. Other strips of buildings caught and soon the whole blocks 70, 50, 42 to 43, and 1 and 2, were blazing.

About 11 o'clock the wind shifted a little more easterly, and quickly laid hold of the houses and godowns in the new direction. No. 71 and part of No. 72 in the main street, and Nos. 51, 52 and 53 were speedily attacked; proceeding in the same direction Nos. 44 and 49, Nos. 24 to 28 and 3 to 8 became shrouded in the general woe.

The Club, was not consumed, although it caught fire once or twice; but it was terribly shaken by the explosions, and much damage was done to it. In most instances the houses blown down subsequently ignited and became an easy prey to the flames; On the ground the first building that escaped was the French Hospital. Some of the other buildings on the lot were destroyed. At one time it seemed that Nos. 54 to 68 in the Main Street must inevitably go—but happily, although all received some damage it is of no very great extent. The blocks destroyed then, are 1, 2, 3, 4, a part of 5, 7, (Bungalow saved, but much damaged) 8, 21, 22, 23 (small bungalow saved) 24, 25, 26, 27, part of 28, part of 29, blown down, 40, 41, 41A, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, (part saved but much injured) 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, part of 54, 70, 71, 72, and No. 80. In addition to these, the block of buildings containing the French, American, Portuguese and Prussian Consulates and the old British Consulate buildings; the newly built American Consulate—the whole of Bonded Warehouse A, and all the adjoining buildings—the whole of the Japanese Custom House and the fire engine house. Of the native town, fully two thirds were utterly destroyed within two hours of the original bursting forth of the flames.

We are inclined to estimate the total loss at the fire in Japanese and foreign property—houses, godowns and goods—at between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000.

It is now ascertained that the fire had its origin in a small cookshop; some grease dripping on to the fire caused a blaze that caught the dry woodwork, and in a few minutes attained mastery over the whole place.

Our readers will however be able to learn full particulars of this disastrous affair from our other Columns.

In commenting upon the catastrophe the *Overland Mail* says:—"As but very little produce has been burnt and a great impulse given to the Import trade by the destruction of many goods unsaleable at the moment and of others in demand; as, besides, the part of the town burnt did not include the residences of many of the chief native

merchants;—we anticipate great good will ultimately be reaped from the present disaster, at the expense of a little temporary inconvenience."

Coincident with the impulse thus given to the Import trade, came news to us direct from our own correspondent at Nagasaki and indirectly from other sources, to the effect that the Civil War in the Inland Sea is actually over. Troops continue to pour along the Tokaido daily into Yedo from the South, and everything seems to indicate that a change of policy was initiated by the death of the late Shogoon. There are not wanting those, of course, who insinuate that most likely that event was hastened by the necessity of making such a change. Be that as it may, it is certain that all his arrangements have been reversed. The great assembly of Daimios which was ordered before his death will not now take place, the most influential refusing to attend. Of those who were said to have come forward so boldly to help Stotsbashi, the Shogoon elect, many have thought it politic to feign sickness and have returned to their dominions—Edoizen, the staunchest friend the late generalissimo had, being the last to leave the Mikado's Court. This move is regarded as a censure on the late Government for its conduct in the affair with Chiotsu, and that chief remains therefore in the field with all the honours of war. He retains at the present moment his conquests in the Straits, opposite to his own territory. It will be remembered that, when the Shogoon was lying sick unto death at Kioto, Dr Baudouin, a Dutch Doctor of Nagasaki, was sent for to attend on him. This mark of confidence in foreign medicine has just been repeated. The Prince of Hizen being dangerously ill, a surgeon of his was sent to Nagasaki a few days before our correspondent wrote, which carried off Dr Baudouin again on a visit to an illustrious native patient. He had not returned when our letters left. The *Coromandel* had been sold to Kishiu for \$100,000; the *Oenari*, a sailing vessel, had also passed into Japanese hands, having been bought by the Government for \$30,000, and other sailing vessels have also been bought or are being bought for the purpose, it is said, of taking rice from the South of Osaka, via the Bungo Channel, the ordinary route by the Inland Sea being closed at present by Chiotsu.

Large quantities of curios and specimens of native produce have been shipped to Europe by His Highness of Satsuma for the French Exhibition. By the P. & O. Str. *Asaf*, one of the partners of the firm of Glover & Co. left Yokohama for Nagasaki, there to take charge of the Prince's younger brothers on an expedition to Europe. Fourteen young Japanese gentlemen leave this port, also—bound to see the Paris Exhibition, by the present steamer—a very pretty addition to the passenger and freight list of the Rev. Mr. Lloyd, Chaplain to H.M.S. *Seylla*. The recent edict of the Goroujin giving permission to their countrymen to travel, would thus seem to be in full force. A second expedition of tumblers and jugglers will leave Yokohama for San Francisco by the *Archibald* on the 3rd or 4th instant. But they have given the rival troupe too long a start and the novelty of the thing will have worn off. It is stated, we know not with what truth, that the notorious Col. Fisher is connected in some way with this speculation. On the 21st instant there was a general parade of all the available troops in Garrison, for the purpose of witnessing the presentation of silver medals for long service and good conduct, to Color Sergeant William Thompson and Private John Standford, of the 2d Battalion 20th Regiment.

AN EARTHQUAKE.

At about 5.26 A.M. on the 24th Nov. a very long and rather severe shock of earthquake was felt in Yokohama. The morning sun, an unusually loud one, had just been fired and it seemed the signal for the disturbance of the earth: so curiously, indeed, that when the rumbling noise of the earthquake was first heard, one might well have imagined the sound to be the echoes of the shot from the surrounding hills. This noise increased in intensity, becoming at last very marked, more so, indeed, than we ever recollect to have noticed as accompanying a similar convulsion. The usual results of a severe shock, such as water being thrown out of basins, upper stories rocking, and severe creaking of beams, &c., were very clear and many people were much alarmed. No mischief was done however, we are glad to hear.

THE COREA.

From the Corea we have additional particulars of the recent operations in that part of the world. The following interesting account is given by the correspondent of the *North China Herald* of the circumstances which led to the French withdrawal:—"The Regent seems determined to resist all attempts to penetrate into Corea. A general levy of men had been ordered, and the peaceful appearance of the country very soon began to change. Detachments of soldiers headed by officers on horseback appeared on the

left bank of the river, and the inhabitants of the Island of Kanghoa gradually disappeared from their labours of cultivation. Spies brought in word that troops were advancing to attack the French position. Admiral Roze therefore ordered a reconnaissance to be made across the river along the road leading to Seoul; and on the 26th October, about 150 men were detached to effect a landing. The whole line of the river opposite the French camp is flanked by a crouched wall with a large gateway and a jetty advancing into the river. The French boats' crews had repeatedly landed there and had not seen any troops. No resistance therefore was expected and insufficient precautions were taken to make the landing successful. The boats advanced within thirty yards of the gateway, when the line of wall seemed alive with men, and a galling fire was poured down on the French, wounding twenty-five and killing two of the crews. One boat managed to get to the jetty and some sailors having been formed on shore they rushed through the gateway which was left open and attacked the Koreans with their bayonets, killing twenty and wounding others and putting the rest to flight. The reconnoitering party proceeded no further but returned to Kanghoa. A short time after a body of Korean soldiers, about 2,500, advanced along the road from Seoul carrying cannons suspended on bamboo in the Chinese style. Fire was opened on them with two rifled cannon at 1,000 yards, and afterwards 1,500 yards, and as the shells burst amongst them they fled to the mountains. They managed however to take their cannons with them. While the Koreans were thus preparing to invest the French camp on the side of the mainland news was brought in that three hundred troops had landed on the Island of Kanghoa during the preceding night and had established themselves in one of the forts. A gunboat was despatched to ascertain the correctness of this, and no trace of any boats except two small sampans could be found within a range of two miles of the spot where the troops were said to have disembarked. The French had previously destroyed more than two hundred junks, so as to cut off communication with the other side, and the absence of boats after a diligent search by the gunboat, caused the report of the troops landing to be disbelieved. The next day a spy came in and reported that five hundred more troops had landed during the night, and that an attempt would be made by a further increase of troops to dislodge the French from Kanghoa. Another reconnaissance was ordered by the Admiral, and its disastrous termination was perhaps the cause of the withdrawal of the French troops from a position that seemed no longer tenable, with the forces that the Admiral had at his disposal. The reconnoitering party of about 150 men advanced in the direction of a fortified Pagoda where the Koreans were supposed to be lodged. No signs were to be seen of troops, and the French had reached a retiring angle of the fort within 120 yards of the walls, when ramparts were suddenly manned by about 500 Korean soldiers and a heavy fire poured upon them. At the first volley thirty-five Frenchmen fell. Three were killed, the rest wounded, and amongst these were five officers. The ground where the French received this fire was quite open without any cover for the men, and the Commander ordered a rear movement to get under a ridge about three hundred yards distant. The Koreans perceiving this started from the fort walls and about one hundred and twenty of them sallied out in pursuit of the French. They were quickly received with a volley of rifle bullets, and they shortly after retreated inside the fort, leaving their dead. About twenty-five of the Koreans who rushed out against the French were clad in armour consisting of helmets, breast plates and thigh and arm-pieces. They are reported to have stood the fire of the French with coolness for about three minutes, and when they retreated they did so leisurely and without running. The French returned to the camps they had no artillery with them, nor did their diminished number permits them to penetrate further."

Further particulars.

Further particulars will be found at length in our other columns.

CHINA.

NEWCHANG:—The weather at this port appears to have been as fine lately, as that they have enjoyed at Shanghai. The thermometer has not yet fallen below 20; but a further drop is daily expected. The *Tulee*, which left on the 14th Nov. for Swatow, is expected to be the last ship out of port this season.

TIENTSIN:—The season at this port may now be considered at an end. The river at Tezo-chu-lin was frozen over on the 26th Nov., and quite a fleet of sailing vessels are at present fairly frozen in. It is possible the river may again open, but our correspondent expresses great doubt of it. A good deal of tea is still expected to Russian consignment. About two thirds of the inland dealers in manufactures have departed; but a fair business is doing by those still here. A very active market in opium is reported,

with advancing rates. The cargoes of the *Corea* and *Yugtssefi*, however, are not yet landed, the former being on the bar, the latter outside waiting high tides. Besides the sailing craft frozen in off the settlement, a number are detained at Taku by want of water on the bar.

From PEKING there is no news of any importance.

SHANGHAI.

We (*Recorder*) are informed that Mr Phelps, the special Agent of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, may be expected shortly in Shanghai. This place will doubtless benefit equally with Hongkong by the impulse which the new line will give to the China Trade.

Telegraphic intelligence has been received per *Nanking* from London to November 6th. Shipments were quoted at 13/9; Black Tea was very dull; No. 3 Taster 32/; Discount 4 1/2 per cent. We have not heard of any political news being received.

The Banquets given in honor of St. Andrew's Day, by the Scotch members of the Shanghai community at the Club, and by the Brethren of the Cosmopolitan Lodge at the Oriental Room, both went off very successfully. Indeed from what we hear, St. Andrew's Dinner appears this year to have been attended with even more success than on the last occasion. There was a good deal of speaking, with of course a strong national tinge, but not a single word was said which was not in good taste.

The French Gas Company will, we hear, be in a position to supply gas in about a week's time.

A party of gentlemen who had left Shanghai on a shooting excursion arrived at Sz-kong-k'en, a place where the Soochow Creek branches off in three directions, at 2 p.m. on Sunday and there discovered a foreigner lying on the bank of the creek, clothed only in his shirt, and severely wounded in the left arm, apparently by a chopper or knife. He gave his name as Henry Albrecht and stated that he was a Prussian, adding that he had gone up the country with a companion, whose name our informant has forgotten, but who, Albrecht said, was an Englishman; and that about 9 p.m. on Saturday, when between Lo-k'o-dan and Quinsan, he and his companion had been attacked while asleep by the Chinese in the boat. Their assailants, he stated, were armed with hatchets and knives; and he jumped overboard to save his life. His companion, he feared, had been murdered, as, after leaving the boat, he heard yells and cries of "My God, I am killed!" He subsequently saw the Chinamen run ashore, and he made his way during the night to the spot where he was found. It is of course impossible to form any estimate of the truth of the story given by the man; as, though it is not impossible that an attack of the kind described might have been made, it yet seems strange, if, as he alleged, he and his companion merely went upon a shooting excursion, what sufficient inducement there could be to cause the Chinese to make the attack. We imagine the man will be brought in a day or two to his Consul when the subject will of course be duly investigated, and the circumstances connected with it elucidated.

We regret to record another accident by drowning, namely that of Mr. W. Butcher, Chief Officer of the Opium ship *Waterwitch*, who fell overboard while stepping from the Hospital ship *Adorn*, on the night of the 2d

In accordance with instructions received from Peking, the Taotai has had a notice posted about the French Settlement and also in the Native City inviting the Chinese to send any articles of manufacture or produce for the International Exhibition in Paris. It would perhaps be desirable that the French Consul should depute the duty of sending off the articles to some mercantile firm whose friends in Europe would undertake to see that the goods were duly returned; and that the doubt at present existing in the minds of the Natives should be removed by their being informed, in a rider to the proclamation, that such an arrangement had been entered into.

The followingships have arrived at Shanghai during the last fortnight: *Johann Christoph*, from Hamburg; *Edith Hamilton*, from Sydney. And the following have left: *Cissy*, for London; *Jeanie*, for San Francisco; *Antelope*, for New York.

Business has been extremely dull—more intensely so perhaps from the prevalent rumour of unfavourable telegrams said to have been received via Kiehta. Arrangements for improving the lighting of the entrance to the river are still under discussion. It has been found necessary to abandon the Amherst Rocks on the ground of expense, and the North Saddle appears likely to be at length determined on. The great expense of building a secure foundation on the Amherst site, and the length of time—estimated at three years—that would be occupied in the undertaking, are held to be fatal objections. The second favourite scheme, therefore, has been fallen back on, and the North Saddle appears destined, after all, to bear the proposed new structure.

A troop of Japanese jugglers has, we learn, arrived in the *Nepaul*, en route for England. They intend first, however, to give a few performances in Shanghai.

A rumour was current yesterday, Dec. 6, of the loss of the British barque *Camilla*, which sailed a few days ago for London, but we cannot ascertain that it has any reliable foundation. Fears are also entertained for the *Silesia* from Foochow.

NANKING.—The Viceroy, we learn, has returned to Nanking, having, according to Chinese accounts, fought thirteen battles with the Nienfei and captured 10,000 men and enormous quantities of loot. The Nienfei are now said to be fairly exterminated from Shantung.

Our Foochow correspondent mentions the *John C. Munro*, as the only tea-ship which has left since his last report. She cleared on the 15th, with 6,426 piculs, bringing the total export of black tea to 343,347 piculs.

FORMOSA.—have private advices from Takao, but not of very late date. The embargo on Rice still continues, the crop being in during the early part of last month.

The New Taotai and suite have arrived at Takao per *Garilla*, and Mr Carroll took charge of that Consulate on the 1st Nov. It is not expected however that his stay will be long.

HONGKONG.

Locally no events of striking interest have occurred. A "Memorandum" issued by H. E. the Governor has set at rest the fears of the Chinese respecting the imports to be levied on small fishing and trading junks, there being no intention to unduly embarrass them by heavy fees and port dues. The Mint Commission has concluded its duties and, according to popular rumour, sentinels posted. Our contemporary the *Press*, which appears to have some peculiar sources of information, says "that the 'main conclusion' of the report is stated to be a recommendation that the Mint should not yet be closed." The report will be found to pay high compliments to Captain Kin der. It will probably leave it to be inferred rather than openly express that better results might have been achieved if he had been allowed his own way from the first; but the comprehensive essay on the chances of a coined currency in China which it forms, will most likely tend to the conclusion that the empire would be more willing to take a Tael piece than a dollar, and if we are not misinformed, a proposal to try Tael pieces, and even a design for the coin, emanated some time ago from East Point, and has not received the approval of the Colonial Government." Further, the report points out "that the colony is under obligations to the officers of the Mint which would preclude the idea of effecting economy in the expenditure by closing the establishment to-morrow. It costs us no more to keep it going for some time longer, in the hope that some change in the conditions of trade may give it a new chance of life, than to abandon the attempt at once. At present of course the whole place is paralysed and doing absolutely nothing, but it has been found by the Commission to be a very perfect and well organised institution in the hands of a man to whose skill and ability it owes everything which is promising in its constitution."

If all this be true, we cannot see that much has been done. We suspect however that the commission are of opinion that too short a time has as yet elapsed to allow of any very definite conclusion being come to as to what should be ultimately recommended. We must confess that at present we see no hope of its being an ultimate success unless the Chinese Government were to issue an edict compelling the universal use of coin in place of bullion—a very unlikely proceeding on its part.

Various establishments for coining false dollars have been discovered and broken up in Hongkong.

The criminals concerned in the *Lobra* piracy and the murder of a Chinese family have been duly executed. A petition (says our contemporary) signed by the heads of the most influential Chinese hongs in this city has been forwarded to J. C. Whyte, Esq. in consequence of his intended resignation, begging him to retain his seat on the magisterial bench, as the petitioners are so impressed with the strict impartiality and justice with which he deals with all cases brought before him for adjudication. The *Malacca P. & O. Steamer*, newly placed on this line, arrived a few days since. She is a splendid ship in all respects, and has evidently been fitted up under the direction of some officer practically acquainted with the requirements of the China Coast service. A report of her voyage will be found elsewhere.

There is a well grounded report of the intention of the Provincial Chinese Government to take steps for lighting the Pearl River from Hongkong to Canton. "We cannot but suspect, though we do not know, that the influence of foreign Consuls, or that of the Commissioner of Customs, or both combined, has been at work. But the adoption of the idea shews that the old tra-

ditions of exclusiveness are gradually losing their hold. We could hardly have had a greater proof of the beginning of a non-exclusive policy.

The Hongkong Rifle Association has at length commenced operations, its inauguration taking place under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor. Those interested in such matters will find full particulars in another page. The Douglas Challenge Cup (the gift of Mr D. Lapraik) has also been sailed for by the yachts entered at the Regatta, but it is not yet certain which vessel is the winner. From all we can learn, there is likely to be another race owing to the unfavourable weather on the last occasion.

CANTON.

A proclamation has been issued at Canton for the suppression of Gambling hells and brothels. The Chinese say that it rates the officers soundly for their venality and connivance at crime, and is issued by order of the Governor-General. Its character is such that they do not care to give it any publicity which they can avoid. We have only heard of two posted in public, and they are so mutilated as to be unintelligible. Canton is beginning to feel the effect of the New Ordinances in Hongkong. The rawdies are abundant, and the bands of robbers have already commenced their depredations. Within the last two weeks there have been several successful raids by these banditti; in one a few nights since they secured a large amount of raw silk, and a reward of \$300 has been offered for their apprehension. It may also be of some interest to many foreigners who have dealt with the well known shop in Hoanai, called "Hang Sing," dealers in silks, embroidered screens, &c., to know that it was the object of a recent raid. On that day the proprietors had received a fraction over Taels 1091 in silver. As it was not paid out immediately or removed elsewhere, the robbers made a descent, entering from the roof, carried off the money and brutally murdered the younger of the two brothers who were masters of shop, and doubtless well known to many members of the mercantile community. The elder of the two was at his family residence, or it is to be feared he might have shared in the fate of his brother; and yet it is to be hoped not, because the chief of the gang was his own son. This youth, about 18 years old, was in the shop more or less, and came under reproach from his uncle more than once, on account of misbehaviour and sundry peccadilloes. He at length took his revenge and endeavoured at the same time to fill his pockets. The band which he had collected spent the forepart of the night in a school room in the rear of his father's shop, whence they gained access to the premises as above stated. The unfortunate victim was stabbed and cut in eighteen different places. The boy is now in custody, and in due course will end his days by being "cut to pieces" on the cross—the punishment infallibly awarded for such an unnatural crime. He has not as yet given up the names of his accomplices; but has endeavoured to implicate several persons against whom he had a grudge. Since these villainous robberies have commenced, prospects towards the end of the year look dark. It is said that the suppression of the gambling hells and brothels have turned such numbers of heartless wretches loose on the community, that they cannot or will not find any honourable employment to keep themselves from starvation, and thus band together and stake their lives on a venture which will bring relief by speedy death or the possession of a competence for several days or perhaps months to come. Desperation in such reckless creatures as Chinamen destitute of all moral sense, may yet work some unpleasant things for Canton.

It is to be hoped, however, that the authorities will have sufficient nerve to persevere in their new course and have strength and tact enough to carry it through to perfection.

AMERICANS IN CHINA.

The inauguration of a new and direct communication with the Pacific coast of America is likely to affect the interests of foreigners in China generally, and of Hongkong in particular, to a greater extent than the mere increase of facilities for travelling or transport of merchandise. Our Shanghai contemporary the *Recorder* predicts a somewhat livelier tone in after-dinner conversation, and our Yokohama friends are already talking of raising a new police force to meet the social contingencies which they expect will mark the advent of the new steamers. But Hongkong looks only to the main chance, and is but little disturbed at the idea of a few "rowdies" forming part of the valuable enterprising human freight brought by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. As for after-dinner conversation, regattas, cricket, rifle ranges, and the approaching races—to say nothing of four amateur theatrical companies, concerts, steeplechases, &c.—afford enough mental pabulum for the time at disposal for convivial chit-chat, after foreign topics are exhausted, so that the Colony will be comparatively unaffected in these matters. Of course the first and most notable change will be simply the fact that American citizens

and American goods conveyed from the coast to these parts. But that the secondary result will be a marked change existing between the foreign trade of no longer be, to a price in the hands of British protection; community in China influence with the States Consular service of duly qualified individuals which service shall norable profession liberal salaries, ins continuing to exist as mercantile and half ing any special tariff partition, while American energies in mercantile get to "shool," as the British neighbours duties are required, which may be predicted the anticipated influx of our own countrymen least stimulated, by action with the Chinese so at length our opening up of China would perhaps have brought our own direct effort.

Such a change in our relations with the of Hongkong. No need go between be able to dwell at large within six miles of likely, moreover, the as the citizens of the to remain long in the comrades induce the present generation. We say "lazier" nine American day for two years that time place him enable him to save unum, and we feel take the necessary of the present day against, as well as learn a difficult language has no past tradition must work hard to with those already likely to work in the men of the future, commercial purpose will acquire enough make use of the necessary to conduct and they must be they do not master the majority of "judgin" English.

But there is yet in connection with steamers and its bears peculiarly on discussion at Hong the currency. Our in its issue of this tion which is desecration, but against of direct communication affords some arguments to establish a tael currency would doubtless advantages as considerable. Great Britain only proper to neither to ourselves, and i coin simply to suit China trade, we m pieces as dollar pie recollected that t every European n coin proper of aln The United States South America, s ever we may do, that these are p producing countries tainly not alter th na, while a larger heretofore may be stay and frequen tween China and S ly established. V is a sufficient w against the adoptio it is certainly wor taking any steps existing currency

THE ATLANTIC.

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- n starvation, and thus band
- take their lives on a venture
- ag relief by speedy death or
- of a competence for several
- s months to come. Desper-
- reckless creatures as China-
- of all moral sense, may yet
- pleasant things for Canton.

AMERICANS IN CHINA.

ation of a new and direct
- n with the Pacific coast of
- kely to affect the interests of
- China generally, and of
- particular, to a greater ex-
- more increase of facilities
- or transport of merchandise.
- contemporary the Recorder
- what livelier tone in after-
- sation, and our Yokohama
- already talking of raising a
- ce to meet the social con-
- quency they expect will mark
- of the new steamers. But
- ks only to the main chance,
- le disturbed at the idea of a
- "forming part of the valu-
- ing human freight brought
- Mail Steam-ship Company,
- dinner conversation, regatta,
- ranges, and the approach-
- say nothing of four amateur
- mpnies, concerts, stereopti-
- umford enough mental convul-
- disposal for opium chit-
- foreign topics are exhausted,
- colony will be comparatively
- these matters. Of course
- most notable change will be
- fact that American citizens

and American goods can be expeditiously
conveyed from the vast western continent
to these parts. But it is not unlikely
that the secondary result will eventually
be a marked change in the relations now
existing between foreigners and Chinese.
The foreign trade of the open ports will
no longer be, to a preponderant extent,
in the hands of British subjects. The
American concessions, settlements, loca-
tions, or whatever else they may be ter-
med, will no longer compare disadvantage-
ously as they now do, with those under
British protection; and as the American
community in China increases, so will its
influence with the Chinese authorities.
By a stretch of imagination, we can al-
most fancy the establishment of an United
States Consular service, with a proper staff
of duly qualified interpreters and clerks,
which service shall be regarded as an ho-
norable profession and be supported by
liberal salaries, instead of its members
continuing to exist as social Centaurs, half
mercantile and half official, utterly lack-
ing any special training in the latter de-
partment, while unable to employ their full
energies in mercantile pursuits; and obli-
ged to "school," as the Irish say, upon their
British neighbours whenever interpretorial
duties are required. This is one result
which may be predicted in the future, of
the anticipated influx of American Citi-
zens. And with this result there is a
probability of the slow-going officialism
of our own country being superseded, or at
least stimulated, by commendably "smart"
action with the Chinese authorities. And
so at length our cousins may effect the
opening up of China—a result which it
would perhaps be to our advantage to
have thus brought about, rather than by
our own direct efforts.

Such a change would naturally affect
our relations with the Chinese population
of Hongkong. No longer would the Chi-
nese go-between be an absolute necessity,
and no longer would the Chinese racial be-
able to dwell at large on the mainland
within six miles of our shores. It is not
likely, moreover, that so practical a people
as the citizens of the States would consent
to remain long in the subjection to native
compradores induced by the laziness of
the present generation of Englishmen.
We say "laziness" advisedly. Tell a ge-
nuine American that an hour's work a
day for two years would at the end of
that time place him in a position to com-
municate independently with his clients, and
enable him to save thousands of dollars per
annum, and we feel pretty sure he would
take the necessary trouble. Englishmen
of the present day have tradition to fight
against, as well as an indisposition to
learn a difficult language. The American
has no past tradition in China. But he
must work hard to compete successfully
with those already in the field; and he is
likely to work in every way. "The young
men of the future, who learn Chinese for
commercial purposes, are not likely to be
sinologues. Far from it. But they will
acquire enough to comprehend and
make use of the ordinary vocabulary nec-
essary to conduct a mercantile operation,
and they must be bad linguists indeed if
they do not master more of Chinese than
the majority of compradores know of
"pidgin" English.

But there is yet another consideration
in connection with this new line of ocean
steamers and its probable results, which
bears peculiarly on a question now under
discussion at Hongkong. We allude to
the currency. Our contemporary the *Press*,
in its issue of this day, mentions a sugges-
tion which is deserving of some considera-
tion, but against which the establishment
of direct communication with America
affords some arguments. It is proposed
to establish a tael coinage, and such a cur-
rency would doubtless possess many ad-
vantages as considered between China and
Great Britain only. The dollar is a coin
proper to neither country, is inconvenient
to ourselves, and if we must produce some
coin simply to suit the exigencies of our
China trade, we might as well make tael
pieces as dollar pieces. But it must be
recalled that the dollar is accepted by
every European nation, and that it is the
coin proper of almost an entire continent.
The United States, Spain, Mexico and
South America, use no other; and what-
ever we may do, it must not be forgotten
that there are the great precious-metal
producing countries. They will very cer-
tainly not alter their coinage to suit Chi-
na, while a larger influx of dollars than
heretofore may be expected, when a con-
stant and frequent communication be-
tween China and San Francisco is thor-
oughly established. We do not say that
this is a sufficiently strong reason to urge
against the adoption of the tael idea, but
it is certainly worth consideration before
taking any steps to do away with the
existing currency.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

It is not often that we allude in our lead-
ing columns to matters unconnected with
our interests in China, but the recent
triumph of scientific skill which has placed
in instantaneous communication two con-
tinents divided by the broad Atlantic, is
so important in the history of the world
that it becomes our duty to record the
impression such news has created amongst
foreigners in China. So far as Hongkong
itself is concerned we cannot say that
much enthusiasm has been displayed. One
would naturally have expected that the
completion of an undertaking, which
practically brought within speaking dis-
tance the Governments, the press, and the
richer commercial classes of two nations
who, combined might defy a world in arms,
would be signalled by some demonstration
after the manner of the Anglo Saxon
habit; that some commemorative meeting,
or at least a dinner, after which the flood-
gates of colonial eloquence would be
opened, would have been set on foot, and
that a triumph of human skill such as this
planned has never before witnessed would
have been celebrated with universal plea-
sure. Whether it be that our naturally

phlegmatic disposition becomes still more
un demonstrative in Hongkong than at
home, we know not, but we simply put
on record that the event has scarcely
caused an interchange of domestic con-
gratulation, much less any public notice.
And yet we can hardly believe that there
are any who can peruse without interest
the accounts hitherto published of the
almost miraculous skill which has success-
fully picked up, at a depth of 2½ miles
in mid-Ocean, a cable not thicker than a
man's arm; and there must be few who
can read the narrative from the *Illustrated
London News*, which we have published
in another portion of our columns, without
feeling unusual interest in following the
hopes and fears of those who, in the
little testing room, watched with breathless
anxiety for the appearance of the ray of
light which would proclaim the success of
the mightiest undertaking—greater even
than the successful laying of the former
cable—which human brains and human
hands had ever attempted. And with this
belief we find it hard to reconcile the pub-
lic indifference displayed on news arriving
of the end being obtained.

We are perhaps wrong in saying above
that this grand undertaking is "uncon-
nected" with our interests in China. The
success achieved on the bed of the Atlan-
tic is a powerful incentive to extending
electric communication to Eastern Asia,
and we are glad to see that the Hong-
kong Chamber of Commerce have liberal-
ly expressed their views on this question
through their Chairman, Mr Dent, with
reference to the scheme proposed by Dr.
Macgowan. We publish in another col-
umn the documents which have reached
us, and quite irrespective of any ques-
tion respecting the feasibility of
that scheme, it is satisfactory to know
that so wealthy and important a section
of the British community in China
which will, in the hereafter of the world's
history, contribute in all probability even
more than the terrible arms of modern
warfare, to universal peace and prosperity.
When the introduction of the first tele-
graph into China shall have become a
matter of history, the names of those who
thus advocate it will occupy no unho-
noured position in connection with it; and
if the first fruits of the news of the success
of Glass and Canning and Field, and those
who are with them, are rather manifested
in this colony by enlightened support to
similar projects, it is perhaps hardly a
matter for regret that such news has not
been received with boisterous welcome
and empty declamation.

THE TELEGRAPH IN CHINA.

A short time ago, Dr Macgowan sub-
mitted his telegraphic project to the Hong-
kong General Chamber of Commerce, pray-
ing that the influence of that body might
be exerted with the foreign consuls at
Canton, to secure their support of his ap-
plication to the Viceroy for permission to
construct a telegraphic line between Hong-
kong and Canton. The Chamber com-
plied with his request, and addressed a
communication to each of the consuls com-
mendatory of his enterprise, and immedi-
ately on the receipt of the letter from the
Chamber, Baron Tranquaye, the French
Consul, brought the subject before the
Viceroy in the manner and with the
result detailed in his communication to
Mr Dent. Mr Robertson, H. B. M. Con-
sul, who was absent at the time (as was
also Mr Vice Consul Mayers) takes no ac-
tion at present, as the Viceroy's views in
matter have already been made known.
The other consuls are also of opinion that
no further action is at present called for.
The following is the correspondence above
referred to. The first is the letter sent
from the Chamber of Commerce to the
Consuls at Canton:—

"The Hongkong General Chamber of Com-
merce.—I take the liberty of address-
ing you in order of this chamber, on a
subject which I feel fully convinced will
have your valuable support. I refer to
the project of telegraphic communication
between Hongkong and Canton, which is
being inaugurated under the auspices of
the East India Company's Commissioner,
Dr Macgowan. This gentleman will no
doubt pay his respects to you personally,
and explain more in detail the object that
has brought him to China, so that I need
not go further into the matter. My spe-
cial aim in now addressing you is to
point out your interest and support, in lay-
ing the project of telegraphic communication
before His Excellency the Viceroy at Can-
ton—and to urge upon him the great benefit
that would result from a line between this
port and that city. Dr Macgowan is perfectly
ready to commence upon it, as soon as an ac-
cession is granted. I feel that there are great
difficulties in the way, but those are not unlikely
to be surmounted, if you bring your influ-
ence to bear on His Excellency. Learning
the matter therefore in your hands, I have the
honour to be Sir, your most obedient ser-
vant, JOHN DENT, chairman."

The following is the reply received from
the French Consul:—
"Consulat de France a Canton, Canton le
28th Novembre, 1866. Sir,—I had the
honour to receive at Hongkong, the letter
addressed to me by you on the 23rd Novem-
ber, by order of the General Chamber of
Commerce, to request my support near H.
E. the Viceroy of Canton for the proposed
establishment of a telegraphic communi-
cation between this port and Hongkong,
under the direction of Dr Macgowan, Com-
missioner of the East India Telegraph
Company, and I lost no time on my return
here, (on the 26th) to procure an interview
with H. E.—which took place the next
day, the 27th. I fully explained to H. E.
the advantages of such a mode of com-
munication, not only for its benefit to the
foreign community and advantages in com-
mercial transactions between natives, but
perhaps more on account of its undoubted
great utility to the Chinese Authorities, as
it would enable them to secure immediate
information in reported cases of piracy,
smuggling and local disturbances. I laid
before the Vice-roy many inducements
having reference to the material interests
involved in the projected enterprise, and
I had the unexpected satisfaction to suc-
ceed in drawing the most serious attention
of H. E. to the scheme and to hear from
him that, as far as he was concerned, he

was ready to give it all the support in his
power. Nevertheless, H. E. declined to
assume the responsibility of making the
desired concession from apprehension touch-
ing ill-will on the part of portions of the
population, owing to their ignorance of the
value of improvements and to the strength
of their secular prejudices; in consequence
of which, he considered it necessary to com-
municate with the chief of the Tsung-li-
Yamen at Peking, to obtain his consent.
But H. E. pledged himself to give his full
adhesion to the scheme, when presenting it
to the approbation of the Tsung-li-Yamen,
and he distinctly stated that in case of a
favourable answer—which he greatly hoped
to obtain—the enterprise might rely en-
tirely upon his best protection. These
promises, I am happy to say, were made in
the presence of Dr Macgowan, who, having
been admitted to the audience was able
owing to his good knowledge of the Chinese
language, to understand the questions of
my interpreter and the answer of the Vice-
roy. H. E. will address a communication
immediately to Peking, but he does not ex-
pect to have any answer in less than two
months time. Allow me, in conclusion, to
acknowledge the honour which, in the name
of the Hongkong General Chamber of Com-
merce, you have conferred on me by con-
fiding to my support an undertaking of such
magnitude to the interests of China, and of
Chinese and foreign commerce. I shall en-
deavour to keep the subject before the
Viceroy and to explain it to the Governor
who, like the Viceroy, is a man of energy
and favourable to progress. In like man-
ner I shall bring the matter before the
Superintendent of Customs in order to
excite a general official interest in Dr Ma-
cogwan's great undertaking. I have the
honour, &c. G. DE TA-QUAYE, H. B. M.
Consul. Honorable John Dent, Chairman
of the General Chamber of Commerce of
Hongkong."

LIGHTS TO CANTON.

ONE of the most tangible signs of an in-
crease in civilization, and of an apprecia-
tion of its necessities, is to be found in the
increase of facilities for intercommunication
between various parts of any given
State. The savage must emerge from the
state of aboriginal barbarism before he be-
comes aware that mechanical appliances
may advantageously supersede or supple-
ment the unaided strength of bone or
muscle. As his civilization increases, so
facilities in the way of roads, &c., become
necessary for the most advantageous ap-
plication and use of the rude machines for
transport which he constructs; and as
this civilization assumes a higher form so
do mechanics increase in perfection, until
at length we behold the triumphs of mod-
ern times in the steamer and the rail-
road.

It may therefore be asserted that as a
broad road, the civilization of a country
may to a great extent be judged of by the
degree to which art has been applied to
render motion from place to place speedy
and agreeable. Even the well lighted
streets of a Western city afford an illus-
tration of our meaning. Civilization ren-
ders time precious. The native of the
West cannot afford to lose in enforced in-
activity the early hours of darkness and
light; and it becomes necessary to provide
means for making locomotion as safe by
night as by day. Hence we say that a
well lighted street may be taken as the
index of a certain state of high civilization,
when it is the result of a daily necessity,
and not of some unusual festival or tem-
porary excitement.

The Chinese appear to have just step-
ped on the confines of the Civilization of
which we assume this trivial fact to be an
index. They have reached what may be
termed a fair state of "daylight" civiliza-
tion, but this progress has not yet been so
great as to compel the use of more hours
than those included between sunrise and
sunset. When we find that the streets
of their chief cities are so furnished as to
permit the night to be a working portion
of the 24 hours, we may then predict that
they are in material Civilization.

We have been led into these remarks
on account of a well grounded report
which has reached us of the intention of
the Provincial Chinese Government to
take steps for lighting the Pearl River
from Hongkong to Canton. The fact that
it has recognized the necessity of affording
facilities for night traffic, illustrates both
an increase of native business at Canton
and a recognition of the duty of a gov-
ernment to facilitate such business by
every means in its power. With increase
of business in connection with Western
nations comes an increased civilization.
Even this, an elementary step in the pro-
gress which we believe will in future years
mark the annals of China, would some
few years ago have seemed as strange to
the old foreign residents of Canton as the
now visionary schemes described in the
amusing leading article of our contem-
porary this morning sent to Hongkongites
of the present day. It would be fully to
imagine that this step is the result of the
unaided reflection of the Viceroy of Can-
ton. We cannot but suspect, though we
do not know, that the influence of foreign
Consuls, or that of the Commissioner of
Customs, or both combined, has been at
work. But even so, the adoption of the
idea shows that the old traditions of ex-
clusiveness are gradually losing their
hold. Fancy lighting the way to Canton
for foreign steamers! Could we have
had a greater proof of the beginning of a
non-exclusive policy?

As to the more individual interests
concerned and benefited by this scheme,
we can only congratulate the Hongkong
Canton, and Macao Steam-boat Company,
and the enterprising Mr Quok Acheong,
on the aid thus rendered to them by the
Chinese Authorities. While they will
derive immediate and tangible good from
the establishment of a thorough system of
lighting, there are few who will not
participate to some extent in its advan-
tages. Great as these will be, the evi-
dence of an intention to assist instead of
impede foreign relations is still more va-
luable.

THE CURRENCY IN INDIA.

The currency question in India has ad-
vanced to a stage on the threshold of which
at Hongkong it has, it is understood, for
some time halted. A Commission appoint-
ed to enquire into the operation of the act
19, which established a government paper
currency in India, has presented a report,
from which the subject of the currency
seems to have been very carefully studied,
and its recommendations such as are likely
to be satisfactory to government and to
the people generally, native and foreign.
For the present, we shall confine ourselves
to indicating the chief points in the report,
and its most interesting one, in view of
our own position as minters of a dollar
instead of a tael currency, relates to the
proposal to introduce the English and Aus-
tralian sovereign into India as a legal
tender for ten rupees. The rupee is the
coin with which the natives are familiar; its
price is fixed by law, as that of the tael;
is by weight; and the commission in effect
recommend that gold coins of fifteen rupees,
ten rupees, and five rupees, should be
adopted, as being likely to find more
favour in the eyes of the masses than
currency notes of like value. The same
remark applies to the English or Australian
sovereign, with the additional objection to
it that it does not represent aliquot parts
of the native currency. To cause gold to
be generally circulated as a legal tender
acceptable to the native population the
Commission make their recommendation
above noticed, and state their reasons:—

"The price of the Gold Mohur or Govern-
ment piece of Rupees 15, as fixed by Act
XVII. of 1835, is as nearly as possible the
average market rate of the price of coined
gold of the present day. That price, as
sanctioned by law in 1835, seems to be the
legitimate basis on which to found a gold
legal tender coinage for India consisting of
pieces of 10 and 5 Rupees respectively—
the 10-Rupee pieces having the weight of 120
grains, and the 5-Rupee piece 60 grains
troy. It is a favourite notion in some
quarters to cause the English Sovereign to
be issued as the representative of 10 Rupees
in a legal tender, and this notion received
the sanction of the Government of India
in 1864 at the instance of Sir C. Trevelyan.
But according to the evidence submitted
generally to the commission, the conclusion
can hardly now be resisted that the ten-
dency in India is rather to raise a gold coin
above par. If the tables of Prices be con-
sulted for past years, the fact is clearly
shown that the real par of the Sovereign is
somewhat above Rs. 10. If this be admitted,
and the evidence is such that no doubt can
be entertained with regard to the fact, the
Commission may per haps be excused for
believing that the Government of India
had not the advantage of exact information
when it adopted the views imparted to the
Secretary of State in 1864. Assuming what
is stated with regard to the average value
of the Sovereign to be correct, it is ap-
parent that if such a tender, viz., of an
English Sovereign at Rs. 10 were affirmed
by law, it would be to offer the Sovereign
for sale at a price of from 2 to 3 annas less
than it can be general bought for at the
ports of importation, or at the average
rates in the country at large, that is to say,
that with respect to the commodity of gold,
with a view to the Gold Currency a depart-
ure is proposed from the principles on
which the supply of a commodity to a
country is invariably found to rest. It is
then clear that a trade in gold, with an
effective Gold Currency, could not exist on
such terms. It would be impossible for
any Mint to buy gold at a less rate than
importers can afford to take. And in like
manner, having bought gold at given rates,
the Mint, in other words the Government,
could not afford to issue the new coins at a
rate less than their intrinsic value, in which
must be included a moderate seigniorage.
The same argument applies to the purchase
of Sovereigns coined in the British or
Australian mints, the intrinsic value of
which is more than 10 Rupees, or to some
equal to that sum as to leave no margin for
fluctuation or to pay the expense of mintage.
The force of this argument is the more
apparent when attention is given to the
point, that the public debt and all other
obligations in India have been contracted
in Rupees."

The introduction of the British or Aus-
tralian sovereign, as such, into China would
be open to precisely the same objection
that applies to it in India; but it is an
open question whether a gold currency in
aliquot coins of the tael might not prove
as acceptable to the Chinese as sycee
silver. If so, there would be a natural
increase of the circulating medium that could
not operate otherwise than favourably on
the commerce of China. As regards the Paper
currency in India the Commission are of
opinion that it is capable of great expansion
when better facilities are afforded for the
exchange of notes; that opinions gener-
ally are greatly in favour of what is
called the "universal note," if readily con-
vertible, but that this ready convertibility
is so difficult of accomplishment that a
more detailed study of the subject seems
desirable before recommending any specific
measures. As regards a gold currency
the Commission are opposed as already
stated, to the introduction of the English
sovereign as a legal tender for ten rupees,
which was attempted by Sir Charles Tre-
velyan, inasmuch as the sovereign fetches
in India two or three annas more than ten
rupees, and the only tendency of the mea-
sure would be to raise the value of the
rupee whilst artificially depreciating that
of the sovereign.

THE STUDY OF CHINESE.

Is commenting upon an article which re-
cently appeared in our columns respecting
government Interpreters, the Shanghai
Recorder makes some useful suggestions
as to providing means for the acquisition
of Chinese by those of the general public
who choose to avail themselves of such
facilities. It proposes a co-operative scheme
between the Governments of Great Britain
and the United States for the benefit of
their respective countrymen. The remarks
made by the Recorder are well deserving
of attention, though we dissent from the
proposition which our contemporary makes
as a sequel thereto.

It is undoubtedly true that, as the
Recorder says, the time is now fast

approaching when people in business will
be no more inclined to employ merely na-
tive interpreters, than those in consular
and diplomatic services now are; and
when it will be quite as out of the way a
proceeding on the part of the merchant to
ask a compradore to render a business
Chinese document into pidgin English, as
it would be on the part of one of the con-
suls to ask such an individual to translate
a dispatch. And to enable the merchant
and other person to acquire a sufficient
knowledge of the language we think that
Government assistance might usefully be
extended towards the formation of a col-
lege or school, such assistance principally
taking the form of providing suitable teach-
ers, European and native, books, and a
building wherein such studies might be
carried on. But our contemporary's pro-
position that such an establishment should
be located at Peking, would in our opinion
render its facilities practically useless. It
must be of a local nature or would, for
commercial purposes, utterly fail of suc-
cess. What merchant would be willing
to support one or two of his clerks for a
year or two at Peking in order that at
the expiration of that time he might re-
turn able to converse in an idiom that
amongst the merchants of Hongkong, Can-
ton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow and Ning-
po is of no earthly use? Doubt-
less the better educated Chinese do ex-
tensively understand the Mandarin dialect,
but the better educated class is not pre-
cisely that through which such commodi-
ties as cotton, silk, teas, and the minor ar-
ticles of trade are obtained.

The scheme advocated by the Recorder
would be of great benefit to those settling
at Tientsin, Newchwang or Chefoo, and
of doubtful use to those resident at Shang-
hai. But the mercantile community at
the three former ports is too restricted to
furnish a very large contingent of students.
Moreover, owing to the want of "pidgin"
English as a common medium of communi-
cation with the natives, many of those
living there have actually acquired suffi-
cient of the Mandarin dialect to express
themselves intelligibly on business matters
and to understand what is said to them.
The great evil which has to be encounter-
ed is the prevalence of the debased farrago
of expressions forming the "pidgin" dialect,
and hence our remarks are intended to
apply almost exclusively to the ports
from Canton to Shanghai and the river
settlements inclusive. The chief necessity
to the mercantile man is a knowledge of
the *to tal* dialect; and to meet this want
training institutions are necessary at,
at least, two of the great trading centres
in China—say Hongkong and Shanghai;
—the former to embrace the Canton,
Swatow and Amoy dialects, the latter
giving instruction in those of Ningpo,
Shanghai and the river ports. One thing
is very certain: that the growing ten-
dency of the Chinese to successfully absorb
in native agencies the trade hitherto
carried on through foreigners—a tendency
commented on in the customs reports of
nearly every small port for the past year—
can only be successfully combated by the
European placing himself on a level with
the native in the advantage he possesses
of immediate colloquial communication
with the original producer of articles of
export, or the ultimate buyer of imports.
It is not of course to be expected that the
man who has spent some of his best years
in China will sit down and study, *con
amore*, a difficult dialect, unless some very
palpable advantage were obtainable to
his own interests. The past existence of
foreigners in China has moreover unfitted
most for again commencing student life.
But we submit that it would be easy to
make the future advancement of young
men, who have just commenced or are
about to commence a mercantile career
in China, contingent upon their obtaining
at least a sufficient command of the col-
loquial to dispense with the aid of un-
trustworthy interpreters. Such a system
has, in one or two instances, been found
to work well for the interests of the firms
which have adopted it. More than this,
much good would result from the neces-
sarily more intimate knowledge of the
Chinese, as they are, which would thus be
obtained by those who are now dependant
on their official representatives, missiona-
ries or compradores, for all the information
they now obtain.

THE CHINA BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

THE newly arrived stranger from Europe
is often astonished at the fact that while
Hongkong has been steadily increasing in
population, and consequently in the num-
ber of residents well qualified to take an
interest in literary matters, it should have
allowed the China branch of the Royal Asi-
atic Society to be transferred to Shanghai.
The inhabitants of the model settlement
are not, that we are aware of, more given
to scholastic pursuits than those of Hong-
kong, and though they have boasted many
able sinologues amongst the Consular, Cus-
toms, and Missionary bodies, we have also
an equal array of names in the paths of
science, philology, and those studies which
are more or less connected with the objects
of such a society as that above named.

Competition is admitted by all to be a
powerful incentive to effectiveness, whe-
ther it be in matters of business or plea-
sure. We cannot but imagine that there
is ample room for the establishment of a
sister branch of the Asiatic Society in
Hongkong. The natural desire which the
members of each branch would feel to
render it the medium of giving the most
valuable and interesting facts to the pub-
lic must necessarily have a favourable ten-
dency on the class of papers submitted to,
and published by, the Committee. And
we fully believe that Hongkong, and the
ports in its immediate neighbourhood boast a
sufficient number of men, well qualified to
furnish new and interesting matter of all
sorts, to render the establishment of a such
a society, in this colony, a success.

One of the first grounds of objection
against such a scheme would naturally

be that of expense. We cannot, however,
see that there is any need for demanding
a subscription which could be deemed a
heavy tax on the pocket. And while on
this subject we may allude to a method
that would materially lighten the cost of
publishing the various papers which it
might be judged advisable to publish. It
will be noticed that a new periodical has been
announced to issue from the office of this
paper, under the title of NOTES AND QUER-
IES ON CHINA AND JAPAN, the pages of
which would afford, at all events tem-
porarily, a favourable medium for giving
to the world such documents as might
be worth preservation. Sufficient as-
sistance both in the shape of literary
help and pecuniary contributions has been
already promised to justify the pro-
jectors in carrying out their ideas, and
the additional connection with a branch
of the Asiatic Society would be a mutual be-
nefit. We have but little hesitation in
thus bringing under notice a publication
emanating from this establishment, as the
matter which it may contain will be fur-
nished by the public at large, and not by
an individual, though of course due editorial
supervision will be maintained.

To return, however to our proposition
respecting the society. The great diffi-
culty in starting an institution of this nature
is to find some one willing to take the in-
itiative. The merchants of Hongkong have
ever displayed a princely munificence
when money has been required to forward a
praiseworthy scheme, but in this case the
difficulty does not lie in that direction.
We can only hope that some one will be
found of sufficient enterprise to take the
necessary steps towards the formation of
a local branch of the parent society, and
in conclusion would draw the attention of
the Government authorities to the aid they
may render in the matter.

THE COREANS.

WHEN we first published our account of
the Korean expedition, and expressed our
well grounded opinion that their resources
and civilization has been somewhat under-
estimated by the French Admiral, it was
presumed by many that we were the vic-
tims of a hoax. As we then stated,
however, our knowledge of the Korean
character was in part derived from a
personal acquaintance with certain Core-
ans, and in part from information
afforded us by Chinese who had been in
communication with people of that coun-
try for many years. We claimed for them
only a higher status of civilization than
that usually allowed them, and a recent
article in the *North China Daily News*,
which professes to be derived from a
trustworthy source, confirms in a remark-
able degree the statements we then made.
That there "is nothing new under the
sun" is an old saying which the inventions
of modern times are rather calculated to
contradict. According to our Shanghai
contemporary, however, this ancient saw
is applicable to the very last invention
recorded in these columns—the Snider
Enfield to wit, for (says the *Daily News*),
"strange to say, some of the cannon found
at Kanghwa are breech loaders. This is
effected by the Coreans in a most simple
manner. A small cannon of the length of
the charge and shot is placed in a cavity
of the breech, somewhat of the shape of the
opened Snider Enfield breech-loading rifle."
This of course only applies to the prin-
ciple developed in the modern army but is
none the less remarkable, if the result of the
unassisted inventive powers of the Coreans.

Poor Mr Snider (who, by the bye has
been shamefully treated by our own Gov-
ernment) will now have to learn that his
ideas have been forestalled by Korean
semi-barbarians, and that his patent rights
may be successfully disputed at Kanghwa
should his inclination ever lead him to that
most remote of Capitals. But this is not
all. The artizanship of Prussia must
hereafter hide its diminished head, for,
says the same authority, "There is also
a helmet here from Corea, and it certainly
shows that the Korean armours are no
mean handicraftsmen. It resembles a
Prussian helmet in form, with a red
plume surmounted by a trident, screwing
into a spike at the summit. It is com-
posed of iron, encased in moulded leather
or papier maché, covered with laminae of
steel and white copper ornaments. The
leather case for this helmet is made of
superior tanned leather, and the work-
manship is equal, if not superior, to any
article of European leather-work." Mak-
ing every allowance for the natural
tendency to exaggeration of which distin-
guishes the first account of any hitherto
unknown people, we can hardly refuse to
admit that the Coreans are by no means
(materially) the barbarians they have been
considered. We have taken the two
paragraphs above quoted, from a number
of others which will be found in an extract
in another portion of our columns, as
confirmatory of the views we set forth
and which were looked upon as delusions
by our contemporaries. But assuming no
more than the existence of a higher degree
of civilization amongst the Coreans, than
hitherto imagined, the question of the
attitude assumed by Great Britain to-
wards them becomes of greater impor-
tance than if they were merely a barbarian
tribe without a literature or civil organiza

by his mother and
with his wife and child.
braided him for the coup
and asked him why he
upon his own junk ins

YACHT RACE FOR THE DOUGLAS CHALLENGE CUP.

steamer steered for her, thinking to take her in tow, but although they searched about the spot where they expected to find her for an hour and a half, they

Low-kum-poo, and Le

morning paid the extra
for their lives for the
and piracy on the high
the murder of a whole
and two children
Sowerman, and the
the American schooner
fold both prisoners
confession, but they
revealed anything further
they have already said
during their last
un, pp. admits that
unk, but denies having
ocean board or to
the American schooner
seems to have realized
swallowing him and his
found in tears. In
York, also admits that
boarded the *Lubbock*
presently during the ph
resistently denies that
he said was done by
the American schooner
the Tiao the other pr
with him. Since his
maintained an air of en
his fate and to anything
round him. On Thurs
of his mother and
with his wife and child
and asking why he
on his own, Junk, ins

certain before we left. I saw
of *nostrums* (down in
tribally burnt. The hind
ous appearance. The night
s crowded with furniture,
and people who had been
sitting or lying on the
rather gloomy, as you
The furniture which had
I caught fire several times,
had to be pitched into the
sea. The principal loss
insurance companies. I
to persons who were not
word, a spirit merchant, who
lost \$33,000, and who had
Yokohama about eighteen
as getting on very well.
Mr. Van der Yak, whose
up and was not insured,
operty to the amount of

ed Warehouse losses
— Grey Shirtings, 6,299
— 5,794—Ginghams, 4,000
— 1,000—Camlets, 2,900—Mus-
cottons, 1,900—Spots, 1,566—Cotton and Woolen
furniture. The total value of
Sundries is \$102,000. A
certain have of course been
the very best of articles
quality desecrated by the fire.
Ladies special reference to Mr
English-Legation, whose va-
to students of the Japanese
reality well appreciated and
more widely known. Many
the course of the disastrous
either his manuscripts had
we have been pleased to
that such was the case, that
succeeded in saving his Dic-
M. S. and the copy of the
genes now just on the point
Press. Mr. Mitford, also of
ation, was not so fortunate.
has been for some time in
d here but a few weeks ago
s, translations of Chinese
notes for an important work
referred to, have all been con-
seized, also of the English
a quantity of valuable
and Mr. Schnell, of the
ion, another student, has
loss.

clock, lived M. Degron the
aster. His position is a
one. His office and house
the very best of the work
in the world is destroyed—
ing and books. He was on
going to France on leave.
ages of some years from not
which he had economised
while at home, were in his
re lost. And in that safe,
proceeds, in claque and
for some very consider-
of postage stamps and sea-
useful were used to save
in vain, and M. Planton, a
D. Degron's gift, was severely
tempting to rescue it. We
ave young man behaved so
been recommended by the
a decoration. The Eng-
Mr. Walsh, lived here also,
his office with in the Brit-
at the line of fire. Owing
the advantage of a cool head
but effected means at the
check what in an incredi-
of time might grow into
a bucket full of water here,
stopped each spark that
building; and—almost im-
may seem when told in so-
re cold and full of water.
ed the Yokohama Club.
red on the roof, and some
fire, when Mr. Mith, hap-
pening by good fortune
story, saw the danger
fire by this simple means.
out in the group of houses
oshikawara, a quarter espe-
as is customary in Japanese
attitudes with the houses,
shops of every description
use. This is the "esta-
the education of young la-
by the Duke of Newcastle
Lords in the Kagawara dis-
having been half burnt and
It has always been an an-
and physical nuisance,
reat source of danger to the
parties of the class, and
s and sailors from the Gar-
and the dwellers in the den
ways made night hideous
s, and a fire breaking out in
which happened to be coinci-
gh wind blowing from the
ys to be feared as an immi-
or the whole of the native
ger has at last become a
of misfortune, and it is
pleasure that we hear that
will not be rebuilt on the
moved to a position fully a
the extreme now takes of Ye-
the next time it wakes fire,
thing but rushes and paddy
arks.

LANEUS NEWS.

FOR THE DOUGLAS
ALLIGENCE CUP.
ed through the courtesy of
ary of the Victoria Regatta
subjoined account of the
as made on Friday at 8.53
30 minutes drifted without wind
ard, and the yachts picking
the other, Green Island was
11 A.M. by *Heather Bell*, who
a mile—*Celestial* followed
was very scant all the day,
side of Lingling island was
e yachts in the following
ell 1. *Re Echo* 2. *Cele-*
A. *Mayflower* 5. This
0 P.M. The wind at the
it from N.E.; and, gra-
tained towards the northward
y. *Heather Bell*, *Re Echo*,
for Pooty, but not being
at that, the *Heather* and
and stood over to the *Lam-*
the wind died away com-
may closed, and at dusk it
was blown down from the
in the direction of the *Asses'*
darkness was fast setting in
the furthest yacht away
reared for his mother and
in town, but although they
the spot where they expected
an hour and a half, they

were unsuccessful in their search, and con-
sequently turned the steamer's head for
Hongkong, arriving in harbor about 11
o'clock—no signs of any of the other yachts
on the way. *May Flower* however managed
to get in through the Ly-e-moo pass and
reported herself at the *Regatta* at
2.55 this morning having run in with the
spunking breeze, in fact as much wind as
she could well do with, and we understand
she has sustained some damage in her spar-
Heather Bell, *Hilda* and *Celestial* came into
harbor during the early morning, but all
from the westward, so that *May Flower* was
the winner of the Cup, as she only went
over the course. A decision to this effect
was given, after due deliberation, by the
Regatta Committee.

By the courtesy of a gentleman who ac-
companied the *Mayflower*, we are enabled to
give the log of her run for this prize.
The start, it will be remembered, was made
about 9 o'clock on Friday morning. The log
contains:—At 2.30 P.M. luffed close
round the S.W. end of Lingling, last boat
of the fleet, wind about N.E. by E. Stood
to the E.S.E., and tacked twice to weather
the East end of the Island, followed by the
Hilda. This brought both yachts well on
the weather quarter of the others, who were
still standing to the eastward. After clear-
ing Lingling, stood to the northward, and
made the end of Lamna about 5 o'clock;
tacked to the eastward at that time, when
could just make out the *Celestial* in the
direction of the *Asses Bars*, *Heather Bell*
and *Re Echo* in the south, and the
Hilda about three quarters of a mile to the
westward. Stood to the East until past 7,
then tacked to the northward; a moderate
N. E. breeze, with a slight swell. At half
past 9 passed to leeward of Pooty, and
fetched into Tyantai point. Breeze increas-
ing with a cross sea, worked to windward
of Sookon; carried away the top-mast
backstay, in gaff-tail, about midnight,
wind standing to the eastward from the
strong rock, carried away the books of the
weather shrouds and spring the mast;
double reefed the mainsail; secured the
shrouds and set snail jib. Wind increasing,
worked up against the ebb through the
Lyeemoo. Cleared the pass about 2 A.M.
Soon after, lost the wind; shook out reefs,
and had occasional puff; the remainder of
the distance, somewhat drifting back to the
eastward. Rounded the *Port William*
at 3.55 A.M.

The *Re Echo* met with some rough weather
in a yacht of her size and character, and her
voyage was so prolonged that fears were en-
tertained for her safety, and a steamer was
sent out on search. The following account
of her cruise, after dark on Friday, furnis-
ed to our contemporary by her owner,
narrates what happened to the little craft.
"Shortly after being sighted of the *Fame*, the
breeze freshened and enabled her at a
few minutes past seven to pass through the
channel between Lochoo and Pooty.
Everything was now favorable except the
wind, which was blowing too fresh, sending
the boat through the water at a fearful rate.
On entering the Tatlong Channel the wind
began blowing fresh and in squalls, which
nearly eight points of the compass. When
the way between Tanton and the southern
most headland of Hongkong it was found
necessary to take a single reef in the main-
sail, which had again to be reefed when
within about a mile and a half of Tanton.
At ten minutes to nine they tried to
weather a point, making out from Hong-
kong and at the entrance of the Lyeemoo,
but the wind was too strong and seemed
to head them on every attempt. By this
time it was blowing a small gale for a boat
like the *Re Echo*, and it was evident she had
too much sail, and an effort was made to
take a third reef. In lowering the peak to
do this, a heavy puff struck the boat, laying
her on her beam end, snapping the jib
boom short off and splitting the jib into
ribbons, the wind continuing to blow in
heavy gusts. The gaff-topmast soon
fell and used as a spar, but with little
little head sail the boat was found to steer
very badly, and with great difficulty. At
12 midnight she was struck by another
heavy flow of wind, with split the main sail
from the reef band to the gaff, and sprung
the main boom, which necessitated taking
in the mainsail, putting the boat about and
standing out seaward under the jib. The
wind and side now came on with great
rapidly, and a bark at anchor off Tanton
was passed she was hailed for assistance,
but from some cause, perhaps supposing
them to be pirates, an answer was returned
that they had no ropes and the *Re Echo*
and her crew were left a forlorn hope in-
deed, being rapidly swept out to sea. The
wind however again veered and they were
enabled to make Lochoo, where they re-
mained till 4 o'clock A.M., standing off
and on the island with short tacks. At daylight
all hands turned to repairing the mainsail,
and at seven they were enabled to make
sail and stand in for Stanley, where they
arrived about noon on Saturday, after hav-
ing passed one of the most uncomfortable and
disagreeable nights that could well be
experienced by any one in the pursuit
of pleasure. After securing the boat safely in
Stanley bay they started for Hongkong by
land, reaching here between four and five
in the afternoon, very much relieving the
anxiety which was naturally felt for the
safety of both boat and crew."

EXECUTION OF TWO PIRATES.

Low-kun-poo, and Leong-sin-kit, Satur-
day morning paid the extreme penalty of law
with their lives for the crimes of murder
and piracy on the high seas. The first for
the murder of a whole family, father, mo-
ther, and two children on a junk belonging
to Sowkewan, and the second for piracy on
the American schooner *Labra* and the murder
of Captain Howes. Before going to the
scaffold both prisoners were asked to make
a confession, but they neither of them
revealed anything further than that which
they have already stated from time to
time during their last confinement. Low-
kun-poo admits that he was on board the
junk, but denies having thrown any of the
people overboard or to have assisted the
others in doing so. Since his sentence he
seems to have realised the awful doom
awaiting him, and has been much of a
Ayoek, also admits that he was in the junk
that boarded the *Labra*, and that he was
present during the piracy, but he most
persistently denies that he shot the Captain,
this he said was done by a man named Tai.
He would be quite content he said if Tai-
in-Tao the other pirate shared his fate
with him. Since his sentence he has
maintained an air of entire indifference to
his fate and to anything that was taking place
around him. On Thursday he was visited
by his mother and two other relatives,
with his wife and child. They bitterly up-
braided him for the course he had pursued
and asked him why he had not remained
upon his own junk instead of attacking
Europeans. The presence of his wife and

child seemed to have some effect upon him,
and in parting with them he gave way to
feeling to some extent, but this was only
for a moment as it were, his features imme-
diately resuming their former indifferent
appearance, and which they maintained up
to the last moment.

At precisely half past six the procession
headed by the Governor of the Gaol and
Sheriff emerged from the Gaol and tra-
versed the yard of the police court to the
gallows, between two files of police drawn
up on either side. The prisoners were con-
ducted to the scaffold Low-kun-poo trem-
bling all over with agitation and mumbling
with great rapidity, Leong-sin-kit with the
cool indifference of a mangroving into his
own house. The noose was quickly adjust-
ed the caps drawn, and at a sign from the
sheriff the masked executioners drew the
bolts and the two criminals were left hang-
ing. Death must have been instantaneous
in both, a few convulsive struggles were no-
ticed but both hung swayed only by the
momentum of the fall. At 7 o'clock they were
cut down, and the necks of both were
found to be broken.

While the noose was being adjusted
around the neck of Sin-kit, he said to the
Europeans that there was a ring, a bracelet,
and some other property in the hands of the
Sergeant. The arrangements were all most
perfect and every thing was conducted in a
quiet orderly manner befitting the occasion.
A considerable number of Europeans who
had received passes were assembled inside
the yard to witness the scene, and outside
on Arbutnot St. was a large crowd of
natives and others who could not obtain an
admittance inside. The convicts were
drawn up in a line within which they might
profit by the fearful example thus held up
before them.—*Press*.

BAD DOLLARS.

The following case was heard in the Police
court on Monday morning. It should serve
as a caution to be on the look out for
bad dollars more than ordinarily good.—
Police Constable Patrick Canilly was
charged with attempting to pass two
bad dollars, under the following circum-
stances. P. C. Henry Cooper, having been
sworn, stated that he had sold the defen-
dant a watch yesterday, for three dollars
and fifty cents, and had received that
amount in silver from him; but shortly
afterwards discovering that two of the dol-
lars were bad, he took them to Inspector
Daly in the charge room, as the defendant
was at that time away on duty. Witness
thought that was the best course to pursue
in the matter; but at the same time he did
not think the defendant was aware that
either of the dollars were spurious. The
sheriff of the court deposed to the fact of the
dollars being bad, and also that they were
of European manufacture, of a superior
quality, and might readily be taken for
good ones. The Magistrate enquired if
the defendant knew where he received them,
but he was unable to state where,
except that he must have received them
from a Chinaman. The Magistrate said it
was a pity, as perhaps some more of the
same sort might have been discovered.
Inspector Bally, having been called stated
that the defendant had lately joined the
force, and here a very good character.
His Worship discharged the case, telling
the defendant it was unlucky for him, as
he would have to stand the loss of two
dollars, which His worship ordered to be
deposited.

MURDER.

Mr. Tommacy opened an enquiry Friday
afternoon at the Civil Hospital touching the
cause of the death of one Chen-sen-cheng;
who died on the 6th at the Civil Hospital,
from the effects of certain wounds inflicted
on him, with a chopper, by one Wong-nien-
qui, in the Central Market, on the 27th of
October last. The following jury were
be sworn viz., Messrs F. Stone, L. P. Ward,
and W. Swan, and after the jury had viewed
the body, Dr. Murray the Colonial Surgeon,
was sworn, who deposed that the deceased
man was admitted into the hospital on the
27th of October last, suffering from two
incised wounds, the first was about the
lower third of the left thigh extending com-
pletely to the front of it, and dividing the
muscles and all the tissues nearly down
to the bone; the second was situated on the
inner side of the right knee extending
about three inches backward on that side
of the joint; after admission the man did
well for some time, until about the 13th of
November, when the wound took on an un-
healthy appearance, and the man gradually
sunk and died last night about six o'clock.
Witness said he examined the body and
found all the internal organs healthy,
and with the exception of the parts con-
nected with the wound the body was that of
a healthy man; abscesses had also extended
from the wound nearly up to the groin.
Witness had no doubt the wound just de-
scribed was the cause of the man's death.
When admitted the wounds were healthy.
Prisoner asked no questions; and no further
evidence being present. The enquiry
resulted in a verdict of wilful murder against
the prisoner.

A PRIVATE letter from Peking, November
12th, says:—"No diplomatic or political
gooseberry of extraordinary bigness are
on record, but a proclamation of the Chinese
Emperor in Chinese gleams white (dian
phrases) on the green gates of the French
Legation, which wondering celestial read
and ponder and don't clearly understand.
Sir R. Aleck has no powers even to treat
with Corea. Poor Thomas said to have
been roasted, is now reported to have es-
caped into the interior. No, that's wrong;
a Frenchman is reported to have been taken
on board the *General Sherman* the probability
is that Thomas has escaped. I hope
so. The admiral has taken the proper
steps; he has sent up a gunboat to the
scene of the wreck, from which we shall no
doubt get news, and that soon; meantime
I should think that, even if Sir R., being
minister in China, should take the vigorous
steps some people seem to expect, and de-
clare war against Corea, the admiral must
take care to obey. Japan is no farther from
Corea than Pecheli is. Why should not
Parkes declare war too? And in the event
of this double declaration, whose plan of
campaign would the admiral think himself
justified in accepting? Corea is an inde-
pendent country, owing a merely nominal
allegiance to China, whose Emperor is
Suzeren in name to the Korean Wang.
plenipotentiary will most likely be commis-
sioned by H. B. M. Government to fan
this row, and I should think either Sir
Harry Parkes or Sir R. Aleck would be
asked to be that plenipotentiary. The
British minister can give no orders until
the admiral, I believe, could do nothing
more in the meantime than burn down the
village nearest to the scene by way of mark-
ing the place."

We extract the following significant sen-
tences from a private letter received from
Yokohama. "A Dutchman, Mr. Van der Dek
by name, was chased on the Tokado by a
drunken yakomin, with his sword drawn,
and several accounts have been given of
suspicious characters having been met
there; so that, coupled with the fact that
the Legation beds in Yeddo were found
hacked with sword cuts and the fellows
went to live there, would lead one to fancy
that Japan troubles are not over yet."

It is satisfactory to know that the valuable
M.S.S. and other literary property of Mr.
Ernest Satow, of H.M. civil service at
Yokohama, were saved from destruction at
the late fire. Mr. Satow is now engaged in
translating the Diary of a member of the
Japanese Embassy to Europe, in 1862-63.
His translations appear in the *Japan Times*,
and are highly amusing. The Ambassa-
dorial scribe makes sad havoc with history
and chronology. Here is a sample from
the Diary:—"In the same place (Spondan)
was a picture of the army of the spirited
"Napoleon," a general of France in ancient
times, returning in the snow when he went
to cheer Ruricus; he was drawn as an
soldier on horseback naturally and truth-
fully. Ah! ah! It can be imagined what
a hero of the age he was, since there is his
portrait a hundred years after in the castle
of an hostile country."

Among the *spolia opima* at Kangotha, to
be sent to Paris, were three hundred vol-
umes of books written in the Korean
tongue. Upon which fact a local Hong-
kong sage moralises:—"What is written in
these three hundred volumes? It must be
something better worth reading than the
literature of China, which to judge from
the elaborate translations on which so much
money and time has been profitlessly wast-
ed, is too execrably bad, worthless and
stupid to leave room for any worse in the
world." We might easily indicate some-
thing very much worse, and would do so were
our local contemporary open to instruction.
But it is impossible to treat such an igno-
rantly foolish expression seriously. We
attribute the *Press* criticism on Chinese
literature to professional jealousy. It keeps
a poet, and we know there have been Chi-
nese poets, but Crab Street in its most
pulsy days could not display more malevo-
lence among poetsasters than our contem-
porary shows. We sympathise with old
Mr. Weller in his pious detestation of their
works. Sam proposed to end his love letter
with a "verse." "I don't like it, Sam,"
rejoined Mr. Weller; "I never know'd a
respectable coachman as wrote poetry," kept
one, and the dollars were spurious. The
night, afore he was hung for a highway
robbery; and he was only a Cambervell
man, so even that's no rule." It is evident
from some r-e-n-t "verses" in the *Press*
that poets of the "Cambervell" standard of
taste are not yet extinct.

WAI-A-KUM, charged with the robbery of
34 chests of opium in the year 1858, and
also with the murder of a Hindoo, who was
in charge of the cargo boat where the opium
was stored, but Crab Street in its most
pulsy days could not display more malevo-
lence among poetsasters than our contem-
porary shows. We sympathise with old
Mr. Weller in his pious detestation of their
works. Sam proposed to end his love letter
with a "verse." "I don't like it, Sam,"
rejoined Mr. Weller; "I never know'd a
respectable coachman as wrote poetry," kept
one, and the dollars were spurious. The
night, afore he was hung for a highway
robbery; and he was only a Cambervell
man, so even that's no rule." It is evident
from some r-e-n-t "verses" in the *Press*
that poets of the "Cambervell" standard of
taste are not yet extinct.

In the year 1857, the *Crest of the Wave*
arrived on September 26th, laden with half
old Tea and half new Tea. She was follow-
ed by the *Mary* on October 15, and by the
Fairy on October 16, thus giving her cargo
a good 19 days' start on the market.
In 1858, the *Ellen Rodger* arrived on
October 23rd, beating the *Fairy* Cross 1
day and the *Sea Serpent* by 8 days.
In 1860, the *Falcon* on Sept. 28th was fol-
lowed by the *Ellen Rodger* on October 4th,
and the *Ziba* on October 10th, giving 8
days.
In 1861, the *Fairy Cross* on September
23rd, had 16 days advantage over the *Fal-*
con, on October 9th, and the *Ellen Rodger*
on October 10th.
In 1862, the *Fairy Cross* arrived on Septem-
ber 27th. The *Flying Spur* on September
29th, and 12 days in advance of the *Min*
on October 9th.
In 1863, the *Bahama*, steamer, arrived
on August 19th. The *Fairy Cross* on
September 8th, and the *Ziba*, (to Liverpool)
on September 22nd. Five other vessels
reached London on 6th October, the
Fairy Cross got to E. extra, owing to the
wording of her Bills of Lading, although it
was not intended that the ships should
get the premium at all if they were beaten
by the steamer.
In 1864, the *Serica*, on Sept. 18th, was
only one day before the *Fairy Cross* on
September 19th, which was followed by the
Robin Hood on October 5.
In 1865, the *Fairy Cross* on September
10th was again only one day in advance of
the *Serica* on September 11th, and seven
other vessels arrived on the 7th and 8th of
October, while in the present year, 1866,
the *2d Fairy* steamer, arrived on August
22nd, and three ships, the *Teipung*, *Arcl*,
and *Serica* on the same day, September 6.

We think that results of the Race for the
last 3 years prove the folly of retaining the
extra premium unless some saving clause,
as to number of days in advance, be insert-
ed, and the experience of the year 1863
should render merchants rather shy of
saving clauses, so that the total abolition
of extra premium would perhaps be
preferred. In 1864 the ships were so nearly
together in arrival that their samples were
placed on the market at the same time, and
the same thing occurred in 1865, so that
the second ship's cargo had the same
advantages as the first, although the
latter had to pay £1 more freight. The
conclusion was still more absurd in the pre-
sent year, as three vessels arrived together,
and although the *Teipung* obtained the ex-
tra premium, the *Teas* from the *Serica* were
the first on the market, and a steamer had
placed the first *Teas* on the market a few
night before. We are far from thinking
with the *Saturday Review* that the dangers
of the great Ocean Race are so great as the
sensational accounts published at home
have led them to believe, but we must agree
with them in describing this extra premium
as a "melancholy piece of factiousness,"
and consider that the shippers or owners of
the *Teas*, if not those who man and own
the ships, will well deserve to be applied "a
choice collection of Idiots," if the extra pre-
mium is maintained after all its advantages
are lost.

well as the poor of every other part of the
country that I have been to, regard it as
the dictate of common sense to murder
their female infants, rather than allow them
to grow up in poverty and distress, and in-
volve the family in greater hardship and
penury. Yet Hankow is not so bad as
some of the surrounding districts."

We extract the following account of the P.
and O. Co's. new steamer *Sunda*, which
lately arrived at Bonahey from England,
from the *Times of India* of 13th instant.
"The P. and O. Co's. fine steam-ship *Sunda*,
which arrived here a few days ago, will
form a valuable accession to the por-
t of this fleet in Bombay waters. The
steamer is propelled by screw power, and was
built in January last at Middlesbrough in
England, by Messrs Backhouse and Dixon.
She was registered in London on the 2d
August last. She has three decks, and two
masts, and is of gross tonnage 1,692, her
registered tonnage, after making certain
deductions, being 1,217 tons. The length
from the fore part of the stem under the
bowsprit to the aft side of the head of the
steer-post is 270 feet; and the depth in hold
from the tonnage deck to the ceiling at
midships is 18 feet. The engine-makers
were Messrs Richardson and Sons of Hartle-
pool. The length of the engine-room is 52
feet, and there are two engines of an esti-
mated horse-power of 300. Captain W.
D. Anderson is at present in command."

The Freemasons of Yokohama have at
length a local habitation of their own. They
have taken the upper portion of that fine
building erected on Lot 35 for Mr. Curvell,
a professional superintendence of
Mr. Dowson. The lower floor is used by
Mr. Carroll as a store, in which he carries
on his ship chandlery business; and the
upper floor consists of a noble Masonic Hall
— a good sized refreshment room, and several
smaller rooms necessary for the opera-
tions of the Craft. The first meeting was
held in it on Wednesday evening, the 21st
Nov., when there were nearly eighty bro-
thers present, including visitors. The
"Yokohama Lodge" big fair to rival in
the number of its members, most of the
Eastern lodges; a prospect highly satisfac-
tory to all "brethren of the mystic craft."
Japan Herald.


THE TEA CLIPPER RACES.

(From the *Poohoo Advertiser*.)
The clipper race of the present year may
well lead to a few reflections on the condi-
tions to which the contest appears to be
fast becoming, and the folly of retaining the
extra premium for first arrival unless these
conditions change. The extra premium has
been now established for seven or eight
years, and owing to the differences which
formerly existed between the sailing quali-
ties of vessels or the abilities of Captains,
was at first a desirable stimulus. It is un-
doubtedly an advantage to have *Teas* in the
first ship home, provided they can have the
market to themselves for a few days, but
whatsoever, if two or three clippers arrive
within a day or two of each other. A short
review of the comparative arrivals of clip-
pers will establish the fact that the vessels
or their commanders are more nearly on a
par now, and consequently are arriving at
home more closely than before.

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are lost.

MISCELLANEOUS.
TEETH WITHOUT PAIN.
OSTEO EIDON.
PATENT, 1ST MARCH, 1862.
MESSRS GABRIEL'S
INVENTION FOR SUPPLYING
ARTIFICIAL MINERAL TEETH, WITH
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27, Harley Street Cavendish Square, and 4
doors from the Railway Bridge,
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Liverpool: 134, Duke Street.
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Parties at the extremity of the globe, by forward-
ing particulars to the condition of their mouths,
with an enclosure of One Guinea, will receive by
return that which will enable them to take an im-
pression of the mouth so as to enable Messrs G. to
forward either a partial or complete set of Teeth.
GABRIEL'S CELEBRATED OSTEO-
EIDON for setting and preserving the Teeth, 10s.
6d., and 21s. per bottle. Patent White Enamel for
stopping Front Teeth, warranted never to change
colour, 5s., and 10s. 6d. per packet; and the Gutta
Percha, 1s. 6d. per box.
GABRIEL'S Practical Treatise on the Teeth,
which explains the numerous advantages obtainable
by their retained method may be had of their Agents
or will be furnished direct on receipt of Twelve
Stamps.

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CLOCK OF THE EXHIBITION, 1862.
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of the World safe by post.
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200 to 2 Guineas, in all sizes, from half to 3
inches diameter.
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